

## THE ICCL RESPONDS TO PEW OCEANS COMMISSION REPORT

### June 2003

The International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL) welcomes the findings of the Pew Oceans Commission report, which is the latest evidence pinpointing land-based sources as the primary threat to ocean waters, following similar conclusions by the United Nations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Oceans are the cruise industry's lifeblood, and while we are not a major contributor to maritime pollution, the industry nonetheless is committed to being a large part of the solution.

**Strict Standards:** Although the ICCL represents nine of every 10 cruise ships that visit U.S. ports, cruise ships are a very small percentage, about 1.5 percent, of ocean going vessels that transit coastal waters and visit U.S. ports. Even so, we recognize that cruise ships carry a much greater number of people in and out of these ports. Accordingly, and because of our commitment to the environment, member cruise lines, as a condition of membership, adhere to strict mandatory environmental standards that in many aspects, exceed U.S. and international law requirements – and in some cases even similar requirements for land-based waste management programs.

**Enforcement, Compliance:** All cruise ships operating in U.S. waters must comply with all U.S. environmental laws, which are enforced by the EPA, Department of Justice and U.S. Coast Guard. Compliance is ensured through internal and third-party audits, routine shipboard inspections, satellite surveillance, vessel tracking and aerial reconnaissance. Failure to comply can lead to substantial civil liabilities, criminal penalties, reimbursement of cleanup cost, loss of membership in ICCL, and even loss of the right to operate in U.S. ports.

**Real Results:** The cruise industry has made and continues to make improvement in their environmental management systems and processes. Over the past decade, cruise lines have cut onboard waste almost in half – despite taking on more than double the number of passengers in the same period. And we are recycling 60 percent of the waste that *is* created. We are following a policy of zero wastewater discharges in the coastal waters of the United States, and are investing in new technology and equipment to reduce our environmental footprint wherever we operate.

**Major Investment:** Keeping the oceans clean is good for the environment, good for our passengers, and good for our business. That's why cruise lines have invested tens of millions of dollars in new treatment technologies, supporting higher standards and educating our crews.

**A Work in Progress:** ICCL members recognize that much additional work is needed to better understand and further minimize the cruise industry's environmental impact. We continue to welcome constructive dialogue with those who, like us, seek solutions based on sound science and accountability.

For more information regarding the cruise industry's environmental practices visit [www.iccl.org](http://www.iccl.org) or contact us at (703) 522-8463.

Pew Oceans Commission Report <http://www.pewoceans.org/oceans/>